

Message Text

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ACTION SPM-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AGR-20 AID-20

EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-02 OIC-04 SCI-06 CEQ-02

CU-05 HEW-08 SIL-01 LAB-06 NSF-04 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01

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TAGS: OCON, UNWPC, SPOP

SUBJECT: WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE - WEINBERGER PRESS RELEASE

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS ISSUED TO THE PRESS BY SECRETARY WEINBERGER AT THE CLOSE OF THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE - AUGUST 30.

QUOTE: STATEMENT BY SECRETARY WEINBERGER - HEAD OF THE U.S. DELEGATION, AUGUST 30, 1974, BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

1. AT THE END OF THIS WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE, IT IS APPARENT THAT IT HAS ACHIEVED A GREAT SUCCESS IN CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH IT WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE RESOLUTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL FOUR YEARS AGO. THE FACT THAT A POPULATION CONFERENCE OF 135 NATIONS HAS BEEN HELD AT ALL HAS BEEN A GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENT.

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2. IT HAS BEEN A REAL EDUCATIONAL PROCESS FOR ALL THOSE WHO

HAVE ATTENDED.

3. IT HAS SUCCESSFULLY ADOPTED A MEANINGFUL WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION. AFTER TWO WEEKS, INCLUDING A LONG WEEKEND OF INTENSIVE EFFORT, A CONSENSUS WAS REACHED IN A PLAN WHICH IS A LANDMARK ADVANCE IN INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT ON POPULATION MATTERS. THE PLAN ITSELF SAYS, " IT MUST BE CONSIDERED AS AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIES AND AS AN INSTRUMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR THE PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, QUALITY OF LIFE, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOM."

ALTHOUGH, UNDERSTANDABLY, MUCH ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE CONTROVERSIAL PARAGRAPHS IN THE PLAN, THE TOTALITY OF THE PLAN IS MOST IMPORTANT. FOR EXAMPLE, THE SECTIONS ON COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION, ON RESEARCH, ON TRAINING, AND EDUCATION, AND THE SPREADING OF KNOWLEDGE HAVE RECEIVED LITTLE ATTENTION OUTSIDE OF THE WORKING GROUP ITSELF, BUT THEY ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO ANY PLAN FOR GUIDANCE TO NATIONS IN THE PREPARATION OF THEIR OWN POPULATION PROGRAMS.

POLEMICS AND IDEOLOGICAL STATEMENTS IN THE FIRST FEW DAYS OF THE CONFERENCE ALMOST OBSCURED THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PLAN OF ACTION. THE CONTENT OF SOME OF THESE STATEMENTS WERE INCLUDED IN THE PLAN; THEY ADDED LITTLE OF VALUE BUT DID NOT IMPAIR THE SUBSTANCE.

THE PLAN HAS NOT BEEN INJURED AND IN A NUMBER OF WAYS HAS BEEN IMPROVED BY THE TWO WEEKS OF CONSIDERATION.

(A) IT CONFIRMS THE BASIC HUMAN RIGHT OF COUPLES AND INDIVIDUALS TO DECIDE FREELY AND RESPONSIBLY THE NUMBER AND SPACING OF THEIR CHILDREN AND TO HAVE THE INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND MEANS TO DO SO.

(B) IT CALLS ON NATIONS TO ASSURE THE PROVISION OF SUCH INFORMATION AND MEANS TO THEIR PEOPLES;

(C) THE PLAN RECOGNIZES FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF COUPLES AND INDIVIDUALS IN THE EXERCISE OF THIS RIGHT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE NEEDS OF THEIR LIVING AND FUTURE CHILDREN AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE COMMUNITY.

(D) IT RECOGNIZES, AT THE NATIONAL, THE SOVEREIGN
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RIGHT OF EACH NATION TO FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT POPULATION POLICIES AND ALSO RECOGNIZES THAT IN EXERCISING THEIR SOVEREIGN RIGHTS NATIONS SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE PEOPLES OF THE WRLD.

THE PLAN ALSO RECOGNIZES THAT POPULATION GOALS AND POLICIES ARE RECOGNIZED TO BE INTEGRAL PARTS OF SOCIAL, ECONOMIC

AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT WITH THE PRINCIPAL AIM TO IMPROVE LEVELS OF LIVING AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE PEOPLE.

THERE HAS BEEN INTRODUCED INTO THE PLAN, WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE U.S. DELEGATION AND OTHERS, A STRONG RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHT OF WOMEN TO COMPLETE INTEGRATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, PARTICULARLY BY MEANS OF AN EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, AND POLITICAL LIFE. AN ENTIRE NEW SECTION IN THE RECOMMENDATIONS HAS ALSO BEEN ADDED CONCERNING STRENGTHENING THE STATUS OF WOMEN AS ESSENTIAL IN ITS OWN RIGHT AND CONDUCIVE TO LOWER FERTILITY.

THE DOCUMENT ALSO RECOMMENDS PRIORITY IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO THOSE SECTIONS WHICH, WHILE VALUABLE IN THEIR OWN RIGHT, WILL ALSO BE PARTICULARLY CONDUCIVE TO MODERATING FERTILITY. AS NOTED EARLIER, THE PLAN CALLS UPON NATIONS TO ASSURE THE PROVISION OF MEANS TO ASSIST RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD BUT IT OMITTS THE REFERENCE IN THE DRAFT TO ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS OBJECTIVE BY 1980 OR 1985. A NEW PARAGRAPH (37), HOWEVER, INVITES COUNTRIES WHICH CONSIDER THEIR BIRTH RATES DETRIMENTAL TO THEIR NATIONAL PURPOSES TO CONSIDER QUANTITATIVE GOALS AND IMPLEMENTING POLICIES THAT MAY LEAD TO THE ATTAINMENT OF SUCH GOALS BY 1985. IT RECOGNIZES, OF COURSE, THAT NOTHING IN THIS INVITATION SHOULD INTERFERE WITH QUANTITATIVE GOALS. THE INCLUSION OF "1985" AS A SPECIFIC DATE WAS HOTLY DEBATED IN THE WORKING GROUP BUT WAS SUSTAINED BY A VOTE.

A STRONG STATEMENT CONCERNING THE RELATION OF POPULATION MATTERS TO RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT HAS BEEN ADDED.

THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POPULATION AND FOOD WAS RECOGNIZED AND ALL GOVERNMENTS WERE URGED TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER IN ROME.

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THE ADOPTION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION BY CONSENSUS SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A VICTORY OR A DEFEAT FOR ANY COUNTRY OR GROUP OF COUNTRIES. WE THINK IT IS A REAL TRIUMPH FOR THE PROCESS OF INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS UNDER UNITED NATIONS AUSPICES AND THAT IT CAN LEAD TO A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL PEOPLES AND ALL COUNTRIES. END QUOTE BARNES

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